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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Agenda items 29, 47, 60, 81, 86 and 163
COMMEMORATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS
QUESTION OF EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION ON AND INCREASE IN THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND RELATED MATTERS
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS
STRENGTHENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 24 October 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as Coordinator of the Caucus of the Non-Aligned Countries in the Security Council for the month of October, I have the honour to transmit herewith the press communiqué of the meeting of heads of State or Government of the non-aligned countries members of the Security Council, held at Headquarters on 23 October 1995.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 29, 47, 60, 81, 86 and 163, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nugroho WISNUMURTI
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Press communiqué of the meeting of heads of State or Government of the non-aligned countries members of the Security Council dated 23 October 1995

1. On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, the caucus of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in the Security Council met on 23 October 1995 at the Organization's Headquarters at the level of heads of State or Government or their representative. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Mr. Soeharto, President of Indonesia, in his capacity as Coordinator of the Caucus of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries for the month of October and attended by H.E. Sir Ketumile Masire, President of Botswana, H.E. Mr. Carlos Roberto Reina Idiaquez, President of Honduras, H.E. Mr. Pasteur Bizimungu, President of Rwanda, H.R.H. Sayyid Fahad Bin Mahmoud Al-Said, Deputy Prime Minister of the Council of Ministers of the Sultanate of Oman, and H.E. Chief Tom Ikimi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria. H.E. Mr. Ernesto Samper Pizano, President of Colombia, also attended the meeting as the new Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

2. In reviewing the role of the caucus, the heads of State or Government or their representative noted the invaluable contributions made in facilitating the task of the Council and in bringing to bear its influence on the decisions taken on many questions by the Council. This was largely rendered possible by the enhanced cooperation between the permanent and non-permanent members of the Council, the unity and cohesiveness of the Caucus members and the regular consultations and coordination with other members of the Movement in furthering the objectives of world peace and security.

3. In the post-cold-war era, the international community has been actively engaged in improving the instruments for conflict prevention and conflict resolution. The authority and credibility of the Security Council, which has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security under the Charter of the United Nations, has grown substantially in recent years as its members have rediscovered a sense of common purpose in confronting dangers to peace and stability. In this task, the Council must be further strengthened and revitalized to adapt it to the new realities and challenges of our time. The heads of State or Government or their representative therefore support the ongoing efforts to increase the membership, based on equitable geographic representation and the substantial increase in the membership of the United Nations as well as to improve its effectiveness and working methods. A broadened, more open and democratic Council is vital to its future efficacy. More open debates of the Council should be held to complement informal consultations.

4. Peace-keeping has proven to be an important instrument of international security. To be effective, such activities must be given an unambiguous mandate, time-frame and secure financing. A reassessment of their role in containing or terminating conflicts has become essential. The heads of State or Government or their representative emphasized the importance of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping and post-conflict peace-building.

5. The Council should ensure that its resolutions are based on fairness, equity and consistency. The heads of State or Government or their representative considered that ways and means should be explored to ensure the effective implementation of its resolutions. In this context, it was emphasized that action taken under Chapter VII of the Charter must always remain a measure of last resort and based on the principles of the Charter. The special problems posed to States directly affected and other States suffering collateral damages due to the imposition of sanctions must be comprehensively assessed and speedy remedies determined for them.

6. Broader coordination between the General Assembly and the Security Council in the discharge of the function of the maintenance of international peace and security should be further improved.

7. An active role for the Secretary-General in the resolution of various international crises has become important. Parties to a conflict should make constructive use of his good offices and cooperate with him in mediation efforts. Timely and full information to the Secretary-General on crisis situations and optimal coordination between his activities and the Council are essential.

8. The provisions for joint efforts for conflict resolution by the United Nations and regional organizations contained in the Charter provide for regional organizations to work in coordination with the United Nations. In this regard, the special commitments and concerns of a region should be fully taken into account.

9. The concept of collective action for peace and security should be recast so as to render the United Nations more capable of carrying out its functions. The need to devise a more stable system of collective security in which all Member States can participate in accordance with their respective capabilities has become self-evident. In this way, the burden of making the world safe for all will be equitably shared.

10. The Caucus, which reflects the aspirations of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries as a whole, will continue to play an active role in its deliberations and decision-making processes and thereby enable the Security Council to fulfil its mandate under the Charter. In the light of developments and experience gained, efforts should be made to strengthen further the Council's ability to perform its tasks. The consensus that currently characterizes the deliberations of the Council must be maintained and further strengthened.